



HOUGHTON ELEMENTARY

August Newsletter



Houghton Elementary School

Houghton-Portage Township Schools



Houghton Elementary School is a proud 2023 National Blue Ribbon School and a MTSS Silver Recognition school for behavior and reading supports. Guided by the belief in "Every Student. Every day." we provide a safe, supportive, and engaging environment where all students can thrive. Our dedicated staff fosters strong relationships and delivers a rich, well-rounded education that prepares students for success.

Upcoming Events

PLACEMENT LETTER PICK-UP

Wednesday, August 20th

10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Students w/ last names A-L

Thursday, August 21st

10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Students w/ last name M-Z

OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, August 26th

Young 5's/Kindergarten - 3:30 - 5:00pm

1st/2nd Grade & Essentials - 4:30 - 6:00pm

3rd/4th/5th Grades - 5:30 - 7:00pm

New HES Staff

Kim Dart

K-2 Resource Room Teacher

We are very excited to have Kim Dart joining our staff at Houghton Elementary!

Kim is a veteran teacher with years of experience teaching both General Education and Special Education!



2025-26 School Year

First Day of School

Tuesday, September 2nd

Gremlins Gear-up!!

Young 5/ Kindergarten Classroom Supply List	1st Grade Classroom Supply List
Backpack (large enough for a normal folder) 4 - boxes of 24 Crayola crayons 6 - Large glue sticks 6 - Expo dry erase markers (black finepoint) 10 - #2 Pencils (Ticonderoga) 2 - Box of tissues 2 - Antibacterial wipes (example: Clorox)	Items in BOLD will be for individual use 1 - Plastic Pencil Box (no zipper or lock) 8 - Large Glue sticks 2 - Boxes (24 count) crayons 8 - Expo fine tip dry erase markers (black) 10 - #2 Pencils (Ticonderoga) 1 - Hand Sanitizer 2 - Box of tissues 2 - Antibacterial wipes (example: Clorox)
2nd Grade Classroom Supply List	3rd Grade Classroom Supply List
Items in BOLD will be for individual use 2 - Box(24 count) of crayons 2 - Composition Notebooks 1 - pair Scissors 2 - Pocket folder 1 - Plastic pencil box w/ lid 1 - Box Colored Pencils 2 - Boxes #2 pencils (Ticonderoga) 8 - Large glue sticks 8 - Blue or Black Skinny Expo fine tipped markers 2 - Boxes of tissues Hand Sanitizer Antibacterial wipes (example: Clorox)	Items in BOLD will be for individual use 3 - Pocket folders 5 - Spiral notebooks (wide rule) 1 - Standard pencil box (9"x6") 1 - Pair of headphones or earbuds 4 - Dry erase markers (fine tip) 1. Box (12 count) of colored pencils or crayons 2. Box of #2 pencils (Ticonderoga) pre-sharpened 8 - Glue sticks or more 1 - Box of tissues 2 - Antibacterial wipes (example: Clorox)
4th Grade Classroom Supply List	5th Grade Classroom Supply List
Items in BOLD will be for individual use 4 - Spiral Notebooks 1 - Pencil box (with child's name on it) 1 - Box of colored pencils or crayons 1 - pair personal headphones or earbuds Pens ~ 1 red and 1 blue 2 - Highlighters Scissors 8 - Large Glue Stick 1 - Box of #2 Pencils (Ticonderoga)- 24 ct 4 - Expo dry erase markers (fine tip) 1 - Box of tissues Hand Sanitizer Antibacterial wipes (example: Clorox)	Items in BOLD will be for individual use 1 - Box of colored pencils 4 - Boxes of #2 Pencils (Ticonderoga) 1 - Pair personal headphones or earbuds 4 - Glue stick 5 - Pocket folders (1 needed per subject) 5 - Spiral notebooks (1 needed per subject) Highlighter Scissors Pencil pouch 2 - Box of tissues Antibacterial wipes (example: Clorox)

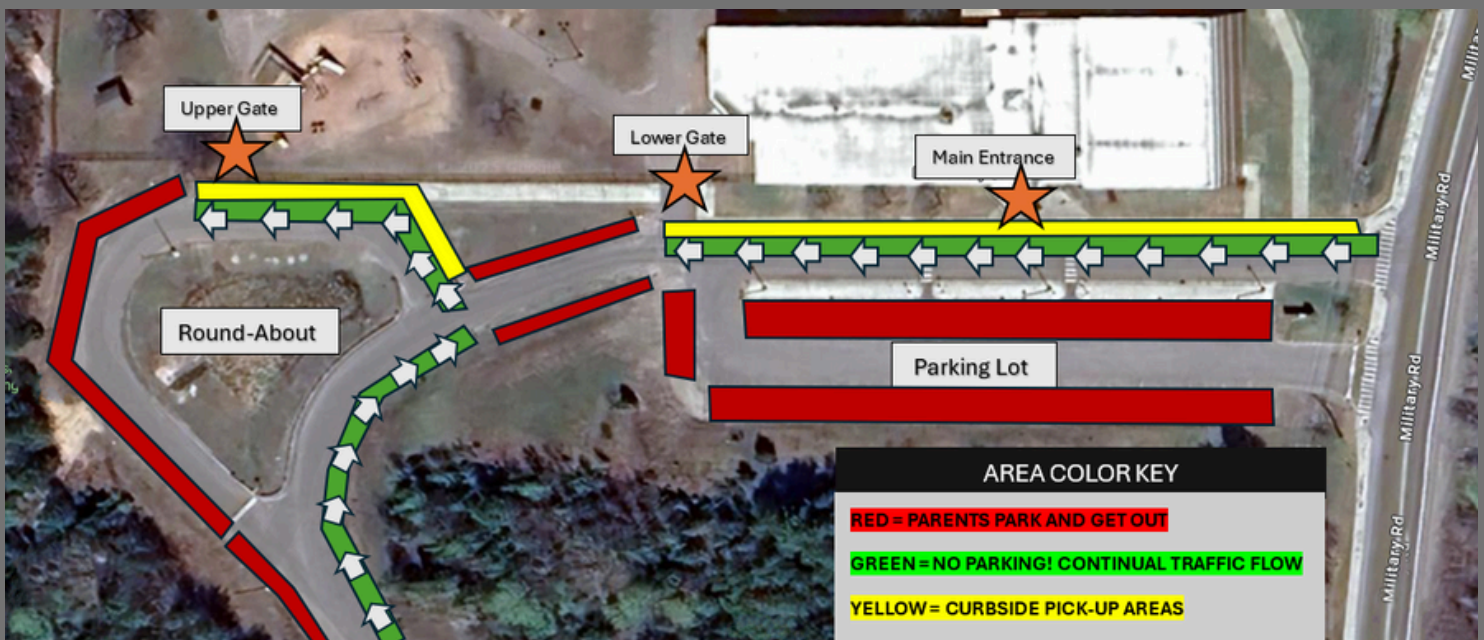
Parent Drop-off/Pick-up

Keeping it safe and smooth!

Parent Drop-Off and Pick-Up are busy times of the day! Help us keep things running smoothly and safely for students by following our process.

When dropping off or picking up your child:

- Stay in your vehicle and keep traffic moving in the **GREEN ZONES**
- Only drop off or pick-up your child along the curb in the **YELLOW ZONES**
- Park and exit your vehicle **ONLY IN RED ZONES**



Helpful Tips!

At **DROP -OFF** consider using the Round-About. It's under-utilized!

- We have an adult stationed at the Round-About.
- Students dropped off at the Round-About can immediately enter the playground or walk down the sidewalk to the main entrance (parents' choice).

At **PICK-UP**, most students are picked up by 3:25pm. If you want to avoid the rush, plan on picking up after 3:25pm. Students play on the upper playground while waiting. **Staff are on duty until 3:40pm!**

- Young 5's/Kindergarten and 1st grade students are dismissed at 3:10pm. **Line-up first for pick-up.**
- 2nd - 5th grades are dismissed at 3:18pm. **Do not line-up before 3:00pm for pick-up.**
- If you have children dismissed at both 3:10pm and 3:18pm, plan on picking up for 3:18pm.
- We have several staff in orange vests to help. Follow their directions with traffic!
 - Communicate with staff if you have questions. They will radio the playground to get your child ready.
 - Stay positive with our staff. They are doing their best to get your child to you safely and quickly!

A Positive Climate and Culture

“Every Student. Every Day. Whatever it takes.” - Jimmy Casas

At Houghton Elementary, "Every student. Every day." — is more than a motto; it's the heartbeat of our school culture. This commitment is brought to life through our use of Capturing Kids' Hearts, our new social emotional program - The Positivity Project, and our T.E.A.M. positive behavior intervention system. All three of these programs help us build meaningful connections and create a safe, supportive environment for all learners. By focusing on strong relationships and social-emotional growth, we ensure that every student feels seen, valued, and empowered to succeed — every single day.

The Positivity Project

This year, Houghton Elementary is excited to introduce the Positivity Project as our new social-emotional learning program! Focused on building character and strong relationships, the Positivity Project will be a key part of our school culture.

Key highlights of the program:

- Core Belief: Other People Matter — fostering empathy, kindness, and connection.
- Weekly Focus: Each week introduces a new character strength (e.g., gratitude, perseverance, integrity).
- Daily Lessons: Short, engaging activities help students understand and apply each strength.
- School-Wide Impact: Promotes a common language and shared values across all classrooms.

We're excited to grow together as a school community through this powerful and positive program!



T.E.A.M. at HES

At Houghton Elementary School, we've implemented a school-wide positive behavior support system centered around "T.E.A.M." This program is designed to improve student behavior, reduce time spent on discipline, and create more opportunities to focus on academic success. Research shows that when school-wide behavior improves, academics improve as well.

Students are explicitly taught clear and consistent expectations through engaging mini-lessons that help guide them in making positive choices throughout the day.

Take Responsibility
Earn Respect
Act Positively
Make it Safe

To support this, staff members issue orange tickets to students to recognize and reinforce positive behavior and respectful interactions. The focus with using orange tickets is to encourage students to consistently make good choices at school.

In addition to reinforcement, we also have a system of logical and fair consequences for behavior that does not meet expectations. These may include verbal warnings, restorative conversations, time-out during recess, or spending recess time in our Reteach Room to review T.E.A.M. Behavior Expectations. We believe that addressing negative behavior early helps students develop the skills they need to be more successful in school and beyond.